

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, June 3. 1708.

MY last concluded with shewing you the Impossibility of your reaping any Advantage by the Union; without adding Peace to the Union; and to enforce this Assertion. Shall I be plain, and lead you back a little by the Hand, to see the Want of this Temper? What Objections any have made against the Union in either Kingdom, I have nothing to say to here, nor why they made them; But has there been no Imprudence in the Manner, no Extreams in your Aversions to the Union, and particularly in the Expressions of it in Publick?

has concern'd himself more than the Author of this Paper, to clear up the Suspicion entertained among us in England of the Presbyterians in Scotland joining with the French, and falling in with the Jacobite Interest; But shall I say, Gentlemen, calmly, the Warmth of some People in declaring themselves even on the News of the French Preparations, too much assisted their Enemies to raise that Scandal on them? Yes, and too much encourag'd the French to expect it would be true; To what other Purpose could it tend, and what a Handle did they thereby give their Enemies to attack them; how much dis-

courage

courage their Friends in their Expectations from them, and weaken their Hands in helping ?

Shall I go further, did not these imprudent Excursions help to bring forward the unhappy Difficulty of Imposing the Oaths they complain of ? Did not this help to make those Assurances seem needful, even to those who had no mind to put Hardships upon them, and give Pretence to those that had ?

Abroad, These were the common Arguments about Scotland; (1.) The Episcopal and Jacobite Party, they are ready to close with the French; and, (2.) As for the Presbyterian Party, they are so generally surfeited with, and disgusted at the Union, that they will come in only to get the Union dissolved, or at least will stand Neuter.

This was the Language both of Friends and Enemies: It was the Language of our Enemies, as they made use of it to prompt the French King to the Attempt, to discourage the English in their Opposition, and to blow up the vain Hope of their Party in England to assist in their Destruction; and it was the Language of our Friends, as it was the Effect of their Fears for us, the Report having been universal, and no Body contradicting it.

I can but touch these things here, perhaps I may speak more largely to them again; I wish they were heartily considered among us all, not to accuse one another, and recriminate upon one another, but to correct every Man for himself, whatever Share he has had in it.

And let us come now to our present State. The French have been at our Doors, GOD had brought the Nation upon us threatned in the 28 Deut. 50, 51. *A Nation from a far Country, of a fierce Countenance, and who would not regard the Person of the Old, nor show Favour to the Young, that should eat the Fruit of our Cattel, and the Fruit of our Land, and should leave us neither Corn nor Wine, nor Oil, until he had destroy'd us.* But he has had Compassion upon us, and saved us from our Fears, and the Storm is blown over; the black Cloud hovered over us,—but the Thunder brake not upon us.

Some have promised themselves, that as the French have done us no Harm, they have done us a great deal of Good, and rationally speaking, one would think it should be so.

Could you but realize the Dangers you have escaped, could you but form Ideas of the Operation of this dreadful Physick, had it been administered, methinks it must have an Influence upon your Judgments, your Wishes, and your Practice.

Do but fancy the French landed at Leith, with a superior Force to what you had there to resist them; imagine the Earl of Leven retreated with the little Army you had there towards Berwick, as in the Prudence of a General he might be supposed to do.

Imagine then Edinburgh surrendered to the French, which I presume no Man will pretend to suppose could be avoided; nay, perhaps they would have been obliged to have entreated the French to take Possession to protect them from

from worse indwelling Enemies, and more terrible Rabbles.

When the *French* were in Possession, you could not have expected less from them than such things as these ;

1st. That they should summon the the Magistrates together, and oblige them to proclaim their new Pretender.

2^{dly}. That they should then summon the Inhabitants to swear Allegiance to him, and perhaps renounce the Revolution and Succession as an Equivalent for the Abjuration.

3^{dly}. Make Proclamation, that all that were fled or absconded should return to their Habitation, on Pain of Confiscation of Goods, &c.

Less than this I am perswaded, no Man can imagine Rational, that knows any thing of National Revolutions ; what Riflings and Exactions of Contributions might be added, I do not enquire.

Upon this new Oath,—what Sacrifices would have been made, what Martyrdoms suffered, what Inundation of *Highlanders*, what Rabbling, what Plunder, and what Blood, I refer to your sedate Thoughts to reflect on ; and I shall tell you presently what Use I make of all this. Well, this Scene of Danger is over, behold another !

Now we are come to choosing a new *British* Parliament, a Crisis which this Nation never met with before ; and

shall I confess now, for I would be impartial, that I think the Union will do us some Harm here ; I mean, by ineffecting *Scotland* with the horrid Briberies, Partialities, Envyings, and Party-making practised too much in *England*, and which honest Men have struggled, both in Parliament and out of Parliament, to restrain.

I cannot but mention it as a thing melancholly enough, to see the Gentlemen and Noblemen of *Britain* making a perfect War among themselves, to obtain an Employment of Peace ; a War of Families, and a War of Interests ; what Strife, what Contention, what Envyings, Siding, and Party-making, to get into a Station, which their Country ought to hire them to discharge.

What can the Meaning of this be, Gentlemen, That People should spend their Money, give Bribes and Rewards, and be at Expence to sit in a Place, where they cannot get one Groat honestly by sitting ? There must be something more in this than is known ; this must be some Figure in Politicks, like a *Moses* in Speech, in which there is more signified than is expressed—; And what shall we say to *Andrew Marvel's* old Proverb, that *he that Buys must Sell*. I will not explain it as looking so here ; but his Meaning he explain'd publicly to be, That he that would buy the Country to choose him, would sell the Country when they had chosen him : Nay he went further, he said they MUST do so, that is, to get their Money again. It is indeed an unaccountable thing, that a Man should spend a thousand

thousand Pound to get leave to go to London, where he must perhaps spend 500 more, meerly for the Service of his Country, and get nothing by it; and this too in an Age, when every Body knows they have long left off the Folly of being publick spirited, as a thing obsolete, and quite out of Fashion; But more of this in my next.

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I Thomas Pritchard, at the Saracens-Head in Little Carter Lane, near St. Paul's, London, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; and applying to Mr. Bartlett, at the Golden Ball in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields, London, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprise, and my Son has remain'd well ever since.

This is to give Notice, that I Richard Baker, of Lawrence-Polneys Lane, Cannonstreet, London, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at last I apply'd my self to the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, at the Golden Ball by the Tavern in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Trusses and Rupture Spirits, with the Blessing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever since, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son P. Bartlett lives at the same Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the same Business, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly instructed therein.

ALL those, who have Debts due from King William, King James, and King Charles, since the Restauration, for which no Provision hath been hitherto made by the Government, are desir'd to meet at the Star Coffee-house in Downing Street near Whitehall, any Tuesday or Fryday in the Afternoon; where Preparation is made for Proposals to the ensuing Parliament, of such Funds as will no way Clogg her Majesty's Revenues nor burthen the Subject by any Tax; but will on the Contrary be very grateful to her most Sacred Majesty; And it is hoped, that what is design'd to be offer'd will be satisfactory to the Parliament. It is therefore expedient, that the Parties concern'd do ascertain their Accounts, in the Proper Offices, that the Amountant may be abstracted, to be laid before the Parliament, who will be fully satisfied both of the Quantity and Quality, before they make any Proceedings. To the end therefor, the at all Matters may be in Readiness, this Meeting is appointed, that nothing might be transacted but with general Approbation and Consent. And whereas several of the Persons concern'd have met, they do thankfully declare their entire Satisfaction in the Care that is taken by the Government, for the Debts of King William (of Blessed Memory) and are contented, that, if they are not otherways provided for, King William's Debts may take the first place in these Funds; and the Debts all along that were last contracted may be first paid, and the first last.

But whereas some unconcern'd Persons may make Objections against us, that it is an unfit time to propose to pay old Debts in the midst of such an expensive War; it is answer'd, that this is not propos'd any other way, but without clogging her Majesty's Revenues, or taxing the Subject; and if these Debts can be thus paid, and a great many distressed People reliev'd, it will be for the Glory of her Sacred Majesty to pay the Debts of three Reigns in the midst of such a chargeable War, and it will bring Credit to the Nation, and make us formidable to our Enemies, who cannot buy Bread for their Soldiers, when we pay old Debts.

And that we may find Favour with the Parliament, we shall also provide a good Fund for the War that shall amount to twice as much as these Debts, over and above our own Funds.